

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7 and 9 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance based on the below comments are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication of claim 9 as containing allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Doron (U.S. Patent No. 6,559,888) in view of Kaji (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,370). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that Doron teaches each feature of independent claims 1 and 5 except for the feature of a zoom area designating unit. The Office Action alleges that Kaji makes up for the deficiency of Doron and that the combination of Doron and Kaji provide applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Doron teaches a digital camera that includes both an optical and digital zoom. The digital zoom is accomplished by cropping a captured image area. The cropped area, which is a subset of the entire image, is then stored in a memory. When the cropped image is displayed, the image appears magnified. See column 8, lines 45-55. The Office Action alleges that the digital zoom feature teaches the claimed feature of not using the interpolation processing during recording of the zoomed image data. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In Doron, the full image is cropped which removes areas of the full image leaving a subset of the image. It is the subset that is recorded in memory. In

contrast, the embodiments of the present invention create a zoom image from a selected portion of any part of the image. Cropping is not performed. The zoomed image is then recorded without the interpolated portion to a memory. Doron does not record to memory a zoomed image. Doron merely records a cropped image that “appears” to be zoomed when displayed based on the cropping effect. Further, Doron does not teach or suggest performing interpolation of the image in any manner. The Office Action’s implication of whether interpolation is performed or not has no foundation based on the teachings of Doron.

Thus, Doron fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a recording controller for recording on a recording medium, image data, which is contained in the image data output from said image sensing device, representing an image within the area designated by said zoom area designating unit, wherein said recording controller records image data without interpolation processing, as recited in independent claims 1 and 7.

Further, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Kaji’s teachings of a zoom area designating unit with Doron to achieve applicants’ claimed invention. Kaji teaches designating a zoom area, however when recording the zoomed area, Kaji does not teach recording without the interpolation process. Doron teaches a system of cropping a full image by means of a digital to analog converter to give an appearance of a zoomed image when displayed.

One would not be motivated to combine the teachings of Kaji and Doron since Doron relies upon the camera itself, i.e., the conversion of digital to analog, to provide the cropping effect. There is no suggestion or motivation found within Doron or one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a selection of a particular feature of a displayed image for cropping. In fact, this would be unpractical since in Doron what is cropped is determined by where the user is positioning the camera lens, since it is the view from the camera lens that provides the image for zooming. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the feature of designating a particular area on a displayed image for zooming as taught in Kaji with Doron which relies upon a user to position the camera to obtain an image of which the entire image is zoomed based on optical and digital zooming features.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Doron and Kaji fail to teach each and every feature of the claimed invention as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 7 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

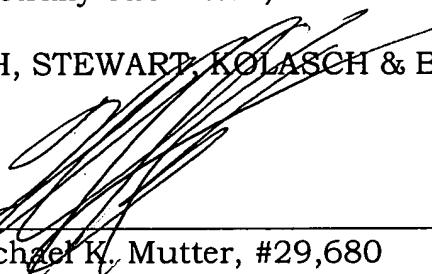
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By _____


Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

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Attachment(s)